

Masthead Logo

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# Woman

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Sachiko Yoshihara · *Japan*

THE STREET

The sunshine is good  
At the scramble crosswalk  
Casting a heavy shadow on everyone's feet  
The sun shines too on sorrow  
The pigeons on the rooftops have no fear of people  
The merry-go-round is good  
The ice cream is good  
Children elderly couples are beautiful  
And so the sun shines too on sorrow

WOMAN

White darkness  
Closes the woman  
Tracing an unseen corpse in the air  
The woman became pure white  
There transparent black exists  
White is an opaque color  
The color of darkness  
From the other side of fog  
Wind is blowing  
A woman is standing motionless in the wind

Footsteps the shape of tabi soles  
Are spreading on the ground one by one  
While stepping on them  
A woman escaped to the future  
Though the footsteps continued into space  
The past caught up with them  
A woman wrapping the tabi soles  
In a purple cloth  
Comes back to the present  
With closed eyes

Oh, you too  
When the time comes  
You vomit a thin silk thread  
Entering a dimlit bedroom?  
Shrivelling like a crysalis?  
Unhatched moth!

November 29th  
Night of a lunar eclipse  
There's a nipping wind in Ginza  
I had a drink with Mary Magdalene  
Who was held by countless men  
And then kneeled by Christ  
Now like a little girl  
She strokes a thin glass of gin fizz with both hands  
Is it a man's foot being caressed  
Or Christ's?

*translated by John Solt*